

JUDICIAL NOMINATING COMMISSION

Open Session/Public Comment Hearing

July 15, 2008

Minutes

A meeting of the Judicial Nominating Commission was held on July 15, 2008 in open session at 5:15 p.m., at the Department of Administration, Second Floor, Conference Room A, Providence, Rhode Island, pursuant to the notice of the meeting to all Commissioners and to the public, as required by RIGL §42-46-6.

The following Commissioners, constituting a quorum, were present and participated throughout the meeting: Stephen J. Carlotti, Chairman, William Rampone, Herbert J. Brennan, Solomon Solomon, Valentino Lombardi, Faye Sanders, Mirlen A. Martinez Mal and C. June Tow.

Commissioner(s) absent: Dennis Coleman.

Also present: Heather Correia, Legal Assistant to the Commission.

Mr. Carlotti presided over the meeting and Ms. Correia acted as

recording secretary.

Mr. Carlotti requested that the minutes from the following meetings be approved by the Commission:

June 10, 2008 (Open & Executive Sessions);

June 17, 2008 (Open Session);

July 1, 2008 (Open & Executive Sessions); and

July 8, 2008 (Open Session).

Ms. Tow requested an amendment to the July 8, 2008 open session minutes be made to include her suggested language with respect to the number of Commissioner present and voting at the public hearings be noted in the letter to the Governor which names the finalists. After such amendment was made, the minutes for the all of the above meetings were approved. A copy of the open session minutes will be filed with the Rhode Island Secretary of State.

Mr. Carlotti proceeded with the public hearing. He gave a brief explanation of the manner in which the meeting would be conducted and introduced each of the five candidates. Ms. Lynch-Gadaleta and Ms. Pisaturo were not able to attend the meeting. He then opened the floor for public comment and requested that everyone keep their remarks to five (5) minutes. The following persons were recognized and heard:

Judge Michael Forte, Colleen Hastings and Paul Tondreau spoke on behalf of Terence Houliahan; Michael Saul and Bruce McIntyre spoke on behalf of Joseph DiPietro; Stacey Vernoni spoke on behalf of Margaret Lynch-Gadaleta; Wayne Montaque spoke on behalf of Paul Ragosta.

Following the testimony, Mr. Carlotti explained that the Commission would convene for a short time in Executive Session to review materials contained in the background investigations. A motion to retire to the JNC office at 6:03 p.m. for this purpose was made, seconded and voted on unanimously.

The executive portion of this meeting shall be closed to the public in accordance with RIGL § 42-46-4 in order to discuss matters allowed to be exempt from discussion at open meetings under subdivision (1) of §42-46-5(a), namely, the “job performance, character, or physical or mental health of a person or persons.”

The Commission reconvened in open session at 6:12 p.m. in Conference Room A. Upon motion made and seconded, members voted unanimously to seal the minutes of the preceding executive session.

Pursuant to RIGL §§42-46-4 and 42-46-5, as permitted under §42-46-7(c) the minutes of the preceding Executive Session shall be

kept closed and sealed.

Mr. Carlotti then explained the voting process. The Commission members conducted the voting on written ballots. After the first round of voting, all five candidates received the required number of votes and their names will be forwarded to Governor Carcieri, in alphabetical order, for his consideration, along with copies of their applications, financial information, background investigative reports and letters of recommendation:

Joseph DiPietro 6 votes

J. Terence Houlihan 8 votes

Margaret Lynch-Gadaleta 8 votes

Laura Pisaturo 8 votes

Paul Ragosta 8 votes

(Copies of the voting records are attached hereto as Exhibit A)

There being no further business in open session, upon motion made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 6:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Heather Correia

Legal Assistant